

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for arc straightening in an HID lamp, comprising the steps of:

- 5 determining and selecting a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal that produces arc straightening for an HID lamp; and
exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a VHF carrier frequency signal, said carrier frequency signal having a frequency higher than the frequency of said frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal.

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Claim 2 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of choosing the carrier frequency signal sufficiently high so that in conjunction with the frequency signal or the frequency sweep signal the arc is stable.

- 15 Claim 3 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the exciting step comprises amplitude modulating the carrier frequency signal with either the frequency signal or the frequency sweep signal which corresponds to the power frequencies for arc straightening.

Claim 4 (original): The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising the step of controlling
20 the amount of arc straightening by controlling an amplitude of the amplitude modulating frequency signal or an amplitude of the modulating frequency sweep signal.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The A method as defined in claim 1 for arc straightening in an HID lamp, comprising the steps of:

- 25 determining and selecting a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal that produces arc straightening for an HID lamp; and
exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a carrier frequency signal,
wherein the exciting step comprises summing the carrier frequency signal with a second frequency signal or second frequency sweep signal to obtain a difference power frequency signal or power
30 frequencies which excite an arc straightening acoustic mode.

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Claim 6 (original): The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of controlling an amount of arc straightening by controlling an amplitude of the second frequency signal or the second frequency sweep signal relative to the amplitude of the carrier frequency signal.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the exciting step comprises the step of alternating in time continuously the carrier frequency signal and either a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal where the frequency of the frequency signal or frequency sweep signal is equal to one half the frequency of the power frequency signal required for producing arc straightening for an HID lamp.

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Claim 8 (original): The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of controlling an amount of arc straightening by controlling a duration of the frequency signal or the frequency sweep signal relative to a duration of the carrier frequency signal.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The A method as defined in claim 1 for arc straightening in an HID lamp, comprising the steps of:
determining and selecting a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal that produces arc straightening for an HID lamp; and
20 exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a carrier frequency signal, wherein the determining step comprises:
determining a resonance spectrum for the HID lamp;
if a window is present in the resonance spectrum that is above the first azimuthal acoustic mode for the HID lamp and below the first radial acoustic mode for the HID lamp, then selecting a frequency
25 signal that produces arc straightening from within the window; and
if the window is not present, then selecting a frequency range for the frequency sweep signal that produces arc straightening that is above the first azimuthal acoustic mode for the HID lamp and below the first radial acoustic mode for the HID lamp.

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30 Claim 10 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the HID lamp has a cylindrical

symmetry.

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Claim 11 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the HID lamp has a discharge vessel with a ceramic envelope.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The A method as defined in claim 1~~ for arc straightening in an HID lamp, comprising the steps of:

determining and selecting a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal that produces arc straightening for an HID lamp; and

10 exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a carrier frequency signal,

wherein the step of selecting a frequency for producing arc straightening comprises selecting a frequency between a first azimuthal acoustic mode and a first radial acoustic mode in the resonance spectrum for the HID lamp which not only produces arc straightening but also excites the second longitudinal acoustic mode in order to obtain color mixing.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): An HID lamp with arc straightening, comprising:

a discharge vessel containing an ionizable filling; and

a circuit for producing a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal for exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a VHF carrier frequency signal in the discharge

20 vessel, said carrier frequency signal having a frequency higher than the frequency of said frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal.

Claim 14 (original): The HID lamp as defined in claim 13, wherein the discharge vessel has a cylindrical symmetry.

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Claim 15 (original): The HID lamp as defined in claim 13, wherein the discharge vessel has a ceramic envelope.

Claim 16 (original): The HID lamp as defined in claim 13, wherein the circuit for exciting the
30 discharge vessel amplitude modulates the carrier frequency signal with either a frequency signal or

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a frequency sweep signal.

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Claim ¹⁷ (currently amended): ~~The An~~ HID lamp ~~as defined in claim 13~~ with arc straightening, comprising:

- 5 a discharge vessel containing an ionizable filling; and
a circuit for producing a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal for exciting an arc
straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a carrier frequency signal in the discharge vessel,
wherein the circuit for exciting the discharge vessel includes a component for summing the carrier
frequency signal with a second frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal to obtain a difference
10 power frequency signal which excites the arc straightening acoustic mode.

Amend
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Claim ¹⁸ (currently amended): The HID lamp as defined in claim 13, wherein the circuit for
exciting the discharge vessel alternates in time continuously the carrier frequency signal and either
a frequency signal or a frequency sweep signal where the frequency of the frequency signal or
15 frequency sweep signal is equal to one half the power frequency signal required for producing arc
straightening for the HID lamp.

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Claim ¹⁹ (currently amended): The HID lamp as defined in claim 13, wherein the circuit for
exciting an arc straightening acoustic mode in conjunction with a carrier frequency signal in the
20 discharge vessel uses a frequency between a first azimuthal acoustic mode and a first radial
acoustic mode in the resonance spectrum for the HID lamp which also excites the second
longitudinal acoustic mode in order to obtain color mixing.

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